

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 15 and continuing to Page 22, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B1
As the recording density of hard disk drives has increased, the write track width and the read track width of thin-film magnetic heads have been required to be reduced. An experiment was therefore performed to determine the effect of the overlap amount L_0 of one of the electrode layers 6 of the magnetoresistive device on the read track width. In this experiment a magnetoresistive device in which the two electrode layers 6 did not overlap the top surface of the MR element 5, as shown in FIG. 7, that is, the overlap amount L_0 is zero, was fabricated. In addition, four types of magnetoresistive devices in which the two electrode layers 6 overlapped the top surface of the MR element 5, as shown in FIG. 8, were fabricated. The overlap amounts L_0 of these four types were 0.05 μm , 0.10 μm , 0.15 μm , and 0.20 μm , respectively. The number of each of those five types of magnetoresistive devices fabricated were ~~twenty~~ 200. The outputs of these devices and effective magnetic read track widths (magnetic read widths) were obtained.